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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING  
*PO Box 9020 • Olympia, Washington 98507-9020*

June 21, 2004

Mr. Uriel Iniguez  
Acting Executive Director  
Commission on Hispanic Affairs  
Post Office Box 40924  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0924

Dear Mr. Iniguez:

Director Fred Stephens has asked me to respond to your letter regarding your concern about the Department of Licensing's (DOL) communication to customers about the collection of their Social Security Number (SSN) when applying for a driver license.

As you are aware, under Federal law, Title 42 USC 666(a)(13), and Washington State law, RCW 26.23.140, state agencies are required to collect the SSN from a customer as part of the application process. Without this information we are prohibited from completing a license application unless the customer has not been issued a SSN by the Social Security Administration. In these cases the customer may sign a SSN Declaration form stating they have not been issued a SSN and be issued a license.

We currently provide information about the SSN online verification process to our customer in both English and Spanish. For your convenience, a Spanish and English copy of this brochure has been enclosed. In addition, customers receive a card that includes information that identifies the federal and state laws that require our collection of the SSN. After reviewing your letter, we have decided to modify this information to include a statement that the SSN is "not being collected for immigration purposes" and have it also translated into Spanish. Our staff will then provide this card to all Latino customers who are requested to provide a SSN or whose SSN does not match with Social Security Administration records.

Let me also reassure you that DOL adheres strictly to the Public Records Privacy Protection policy, and we are prohibited from displaying the SSN on the driver license or any other licensing document.

We appreciate your understanding of our requirements to collect the SSN, your concerns with this process, and for bringing it to our attention. I hope this information is helpful and that our efforts to address your concerns are acceptable.

Should you have further concerns, please feel free to contact Jennifer Helget, Assistant Administrator for Driver Examining at (360) 902-3852, via email at [jhelget@dol.wa.gov](mailto:jhelget@dol.wa.gov), or



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you may write to her at the Department of Licensing, PO Box 9030, Olympia, WA 98507-9030.

Sincerely,



Denise Movius  
Assistant Director  
Driver Services Division

DM:jh  
Enclosure

cc: Fred Stephens, Director